



Allandale Neighbor

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Allandale Composting: Breaking it Down

Devon Bijansky

This year Allandale has had the distinction of participating in Austin's first large-scale composting experiment. Austin Resource Recovery, the city department responsible for trash collection (and, equally importantly, for the diversion of usable materials from landfills), has been conducting a curbside compost collection pilot project, and much of Allandale was asked to participate. In the pilot, organic material (anything that can be turned to compost, such as kitchen scraps and yard waste) is being picked up weekly and delivered to Organics By Gosh, a local compost and mulch company that expects to have the first batch of completed compost available for purchase early next year.



The pilot got off to a somewhat shaky start, with some residents opposed to the concept altogether and others surprised that the only cart option was 96 gallons (the size of the largest trash cart), but over the last several months the program has proven successful. Since January the city has collected over 2.2 million pounds of organic material. Stated differently, well over 1,000 tons of material has been diverted from the landfill and given new life as high-quality plant food— and that's in addition to all of the backyard composting that was going on long before the pilot and in many cases is continuing in tandem with it. Many Allandale residents enjoy the opportunity to generate their own compost for use in their yards and

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HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

ANA EC MEETINGS are now held on the 1st Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m., Northwest Recreation Center, 2913 Northland Drive, & open to the public.

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ANA General Meetings are held March and September on the first Wednesday of the month at NW Rec Center.

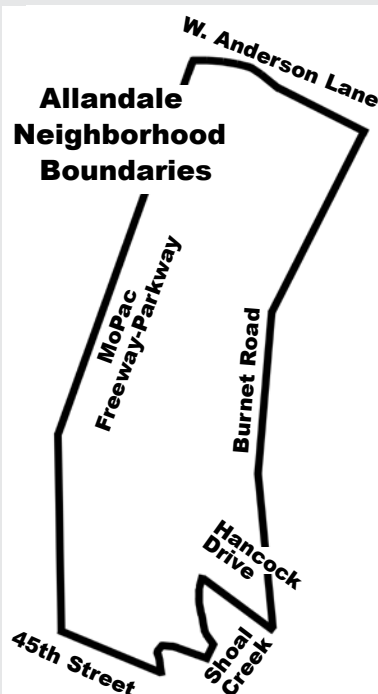
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ANA President's Letter

David Mintz

First, let me say that I'm happy to be serving again this year as ANA's president. The way things are shaping up, it looks like it is going to be an extremely busy year.

How we continue to balance the interests of existing residents with the influx of new businesses and residential development continues to be one of the biggest challenges facing Allandale. In addition to the proposed Little Woodrows bar at 5425 Burnet Road, we recently learned that Ginny's Little Longhorn has applied for a late night beer and wine permit, and it appears that a new restaurant at 5520 Burnet Road will also be applying for a late night mixed beverage permit. While I enjoy going out to neighborhood restaurants and bars, if all of these permits are granted there could be a de facto bar district created in the neighborhood. In of itself, that wouldn't be a problem from my perspective, except there is bound to be a negative impact on residents nearby who will face late night noise, traffic and other safety issues.

From a broader perspective, the city is exploring finally bringing a neighborhood planning process to the Allandale, Rosedale and North Shoal Creek neighborhoods sometime around the beginning of the year. Many details are still up in the air, but if the process moves forward, it could give stakeholders in our area a chance to provide a vision of how we would like future development and amenities in our neighborhood to be shaped.

Other issues include the start of construction on the MoPac Improvement Project and the accompanying sound walls in several areas, including a contro-

versial portion along Great Northern Boulevard; the drawing of single member city council districts; and the rewrite of the city's Land Development Code (which is scheduled to continue through 2015).

I don't know how all of these issues are eventually going to turn out, but I can tell you that thanks to the Executive Committee and many other committed volunteers, we will be watching carefully and working to maintain the quality of life in our neighborhood.

Of course, ANA will be active in all of the areas where we traditionally work as well. Throughout the year, we'll sponsor events like the annual neighborhood garage sale in May and the Fourth of July parade. We'll continue getting out the word on issues affecting the neighborhood through the newsletter, list-serv and website, and helping promote safety through programs such as our neighborhood watch block captains. ANA is also an active member of the Austin Neighborhoods Council, which helps coordinate efforts for neighborhood groups and serves as an information clearinghouse.

In closing, one of my top goals this year is to substantially reduce or entirely pay off the debt that the neighborhood association incurred several years ago while fighting the Walmart that was built at Northcross Mall. While we have made some progress in paying that bill, as of this writing, ANA still owes the law firm that represented us \$24,800. I realize that not everyone living in the neighborhood supported the decision to take on that fight, but it is time clear this debt. It is important to note that no membership dues paid to the association goes toward that debt and it will only be paid through funds raised specifically for that purpose. We have been working on developing a plan to tackle this issue and I

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Allandale Composting: Breaking it Down

Continued from front page

gardens, but curbside collection makes it possible to compost meat, bones, weeds, and other organic materials that are best kept out of backyard compost piles.

Austin Resource Recovery is pleased with the response, noting that they rarely find non-compostables in organics carts (lumber is the biggest offender). Their main focus now is on increasing participation among households that have not yet embraced composting. Although no date has been set for the citywide rollout of curbside organics collection, the pilot will continue next year for all of the original participants plus another 8,000 homes, and it is likely that more of Allandale will be included. No decision has yet been made regarding offering smaller carts, but Austin Resource Recovery asks that residents always fill their cart first and only use lawn waste bags or another trash can for overflow. This keeps the weekly collection as efficient as possible, as the mechanical arms on the trucks can only handle the city-issued carts (other receptacles must be manually emptied).

Although participants in the pilot have

largely found composting to be straightforward and easy, some have noticed an odor and/or fruit flies around the kitchen collection bin. (However, these issues are also present with food waste in regular trash if it is not emptied frequently enough.) Through trial and error, neighbors have found the following strategies helpful:


- Keep scraps, especially meat, in the freezer until trash day,
- If you are going to use the kitchen collection bin, line it with paper or use biodegradable Bio Bags (available online),
- If possible, store the cart in the shade to minimize the odor,
- Put weeds in the city compost cart instead of your personal pile (their industrial operation gets hotter, killing seeds that could survive in your own compost pile),
- Milk and juice cartons can be composted as long as you remove any plastic spout first; these cartons can also be used to collect and transport kitchen scraps (however, the Tetra-Brik/asep-


tic cartons with a metallic or plastic lining are not compostable),

- Put soiled paper products, which may contain trace amounts of bleach and chemical dyes, in the city compost cart instead of your personal pile, especially if you use your own compost for vegetable gardening (paper products that are not soiled should be recycled), and
- Put a second trash can in bathrooms to collect paper products, Q-tips, etc. for composting.

Regardless of whether your house is in the composting pilot, keep in mind that you can save on your utility bill by downsizing to a smaller trash cart. Although state law currently requires the city to provide weekly trash collection, it is foreseeable that curbside compost collection could pave the way for a future reduction in the frequency of trash pick-up (remember— trash doesn't smell if there is no food or other organic material in it!).

For more information about the pilot project and composting in general, go to www.austintexas.gov/austincomposts. ❖





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Highlights from September ANA General Meeting

David Mintz

The September General Meeting featured a presentation on the MoPac Improvement Project and planned sound wall along Great Northern Boulevard by Mario Espinosa and Steve Pustelnik from the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority. Many of the questions and comments from neighbors attending the meeting focused on concerns about the impact that the sound wall will have on the neighborhood, and the CTRMA representatives heard many concerns. While nothing was settled at the meeting, CTRMA promised to get back with neighbors about many of the questions that were raised.

There was also a presentation on the creation of single member city council districts. Peck Young with Austinites for Geographic Representation and Steven Aleman, immediate past president of the Austin Neighborhoods Council, gave an overview of the process and what single member city council districts will mean for Austin's future. At the October Executive Committee meeting, we voted to

support creation of a council member district that includes Byker Woods and neighborhoods north of it, including Allandale, Brentwood, Brykerwoods, Crestview North Shoal Creek, Oakmont Heights, Ridgelea, Rosedale and Wooten.

The Membership also elected officers for the upcoming year and approved several minor bylaws changes. ♦

Ruth Kieschnick: An Allandale Original

Kata Carbone

Joining the wave of post-WWII marriages that swept the country, Ruth and Gus Kieschnick married in 1946. Since building materials were hard to come by, it was six months before their house on Woodview Avenue was ready for move in. On January 1, 1947, Ruth and Gus greeted the new year in their brand new home. In those days, the subdivision was on the outskirts of town, Burnet Road and Koenig Lane were not paved, and there was a corn field across the street.

The Kieschnicks bought their lot from Bird Kohn, a local baker. The Kohn Baking Company marketed Pan Dandy Bread

with the slogan "It's Delicious." Bird's father, Adolph, operated the Bon Ton Bakery on Lavaca back in the 1920s. Adolph had acquired a good bit of land, and in 1938 entered into an agreement with the City of Austin to provide water hookups—at his own expense—to properties bounded by Shoalmont, Woodview, Baltimore (now Hancock), and Shoal Creek Boulevard. The deal stipulated that the city would reimburse him if any part of his subdivision was annexed within fifteen years. Adolph died ten years later, but his estate was reimbursed in 1949.

The Kieschnicks had obtained one of the largest homesites the Kohns had to offer. Judge Charles O. Betts and Eula Kohn Betts lived at the corner of Shoalmont and Shoalwood on another large lot in the subdivision.

After settling in on Woodview, the Kieschnicks had to go all the way to the A&P at 12th and Lamar to shop for groceries. When the Red & White—part of a small independent cooperative that enabled independent grocers to compete with the large A&P chain—opened closer to home (most likely in the old Rosedale Shopping Center at 4800 Burnet Road), the Kieschnicks found it not only a con-

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venient location, but a market to sell their home-grown okra. After all, when you're on a half acre of land you can have a pretty big garden, but you can eat only so much okra.

Other than the occasional picnic at Barton Springs, the Kieschnick children didn't need to venture far from home to have fun. With a swing set in the back yard (still there), pecan trees to climb, Northwest pool nearby, and a yard large enough for football and half-court basketball, neighborhood children would congregate at the Kieschnick's.

Ruth hails from Walburg, a predominantly German-Lutheran farming community just northeast of Austin. Founded in the early 1880s by Ruth's grandfather, Henry Doering, and named after his birthplace in Germany, Walburg is still a bucolic crossroads town where you'd be wise to slow down and admire the countryside and a handful of historic buildings. Stop in at the Walburg Mercantile restaurant—originally a dry goods store

built in 1882 by Mr. Doering—for spätzle or black forest cake (or both).

Gus, who passed away in 1996, was from Lincoln, where he was raised on a ranch with a large grove of pecan trees. Lincoln was not nearly as picturesque as nearby Giddings, and its population declined after WWII. Gus was motivated to move to Austin to help out at his aunt's poultry farm on Koenig Lane after she was widowed. He also worked as a soda jerk at Rosedale pharmacy for spending money, and later became a plumber, then a postman, and then a postal supervisor.

Gus brought native pecan saplings from the ranch in Lincoln and grafted various varieties onto them, such as the Brake (with a very thin shell), Desirable (a rough shell), Sioux (a smooth shell), and Stuart (the most widely known pecan cultivar). The results were lovely, robust, upright trees that yielded larger pecans with shells easier to crack than the small natives.

With eleven pecan trees in his yard, Gus took meticulous care pruning and spraying them against webworms. He shared countless grafted pecan saplings with relatives and friends throughout the neighborhood, so if you've got a grafted

pecan tree in your yard, you might thank Gus next time you harvest a crop and whip up a pecan pie or two.

When the youngest of their three children entered high school, Ruth went to work at Tracor, where she remained for eighteen years—well beyond the intended time it took to help pay for her children's college tuitions. Ruth is still very much a barefoot country girl who tends her beautiful plants and flowers, and points out the significance of a delicate coral vine she got from her mother and an unusual cycad handed down by Gus's grandmother. She recently turned over the lawn mowing to one of her eleven grandchildren, but she still does the edging.

Today, all the neighborhood roads are paved, the corn field is long gone, and Ruth wonders how it is that folks can carve up the large original neighborhood lots to live in such big houses crammed so close together. But sitting on her back porch looking out at the vast lawn shaded by tall pecan trees, it seems as if the neighborhood hasn't changed at all. Ruth says the neighborhood is still quiet, and even though we know there's heavy traffic just a few blocks away, it sure feels like 1947 all over again. ❖

Classic and Antique Cars in Allandale

Steve Johnson

The American automobile—classic symbol of freedom and testament to the idea that anybody, anywhere, can do anything, go anywhere. Embedded in the heart of another classic—Austin's Allandale neighborhood—you'll find plenty of people who own an automobile from one of the classic periods of American history.

This article profiles four of your neighbors: Leif on White Horse with his 1931 Ford Model A Tudor Sedan; Dane on West 49th, proud owner of a 1964 Cadillac DeVille Convertible; Wendell on Sarah Court with a 1929 REO Flying Cloud; and Martin on Greelawn Parkway with his 1972 Ford Mustang.

Leif on White Horse

Leif is the third owner of his 1931 Ford Model A Tudor Sedan. The car is remarkably well preserved, inside and out. Almost five million were manufactured

between 1927 and 1931, and today there are enthusiasts everywhere.

Shown here as outfitted for the Allandale July Fourth parade—where it won first prize in 2011—this attractive car has almost all of its original parts, including mohair upholstery. Notably, he's redone the starter, generator, cut-out, and water pump; cleaned fuel line and gas tank; and replaced the tires.



Gear heads appreciate the almost brutal simplicity of the engine, featuring bare



metal spark plug wires, gravity-fed gas line, and a generator instead of an alternator (not visible in the following picture).

"I drove a lot of older cars growing up," explains Leif, "and this one really appealed to me. It was in such great



shape and it's been a lot of fun to work on and drive."

Dane on West 49th

Dane purchased his 1964 Cadillac DeVille Convertible in Virginia 10 years ago. "I was looking for a 1959 Coupe when I came across this car. It's similar to one my grandfather had, and therefore, holds a lot of sentimental value to me" says Dane, who plans on passing the car down his family tree.

Sporting much tamer tail fins than the '50s models, this beautiful car has a number of automatic features we take for



granted today but that set it apart as a luxury car: motorized, retractable convertible top, auto-dimming headlines, electric adjustable front seats, air conditioning, and power windows.

The 429 cubic inch (7 liter) engine

boasts 16 mpg highway but in a ride that looks this good, who cares?



Wendell on Sarah Court

Chances are, more people have heard of a 70s hair band called REO Speedwagon than the line of trucks from which it took its name. The REO (also written Reo) Motor Car Company was based in Lansing, Michigan and named after its founder Ransom E. Olds (also known for the Oldsmobile).

REO made cars and trucks from 1905 to 1936 including, yes, the Speed Wagon. In 1936, REO abandoned the manufacture of passenger cars to concentrate on trucks.

Wendell is patiently restoring his 1929 REO Flying Cloud four-door. The car is named after a famed clipper ship that set the world's record for the fastest passage

between New York and San Francisco, a record she held from 1854 until 1889.

Featuring a number of innovations uncommon at the time, including a cigarette lighter, inline 6-cylinder engine, and hydraulic brakes, the Flying Cloud is a



beautiful car and a labor of love for its owner.

Wendell, who's never restored a car before, says, "I got into this project for two key reasons. First, the car is a gift from my old boss, former State Rep. George Pierce of San Antonio. Second, Pierce is providing critical guidance as he has restored an identical vehicle and is an

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Classic and Antique Cars in Allandale

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expert on all things REO.” Wendell has no particular deadlines but hopes to have it rolling in the Allandale Fourth of July parade in two or three years.

Martin on Greenlawn Parkway

Martin bought his 1972 Ford Mustang from the original owner; the car had only 10,000 miles on it. Ironically, Martin’s brother located the car on a 4X4 forum.

At first glance, you might mistake the 72 Mustang for a different car entirely; say, an American Motors Co. Javelin. Ford made this body style only from 1971 to 1973; 1974 saw a suburbia-friendly body they called the Mustang 2.



The 1972 model year included a rare red-white-and-blue Sprint convertible model used in parades for the Summer (Munich) and Winter (Sapporo, Japan) Olympics. Martin’s is the Grande body style, which isn’t itself rare but some of its replacement parts are.

The body style isn’t the only thing different about this Ford; it has no catalytic converter and shoulder harnesses were not required. Martin’s Mustang has them as an owner-requested option.

Featuring a long, sleek hood, this is no classic 70s muscle car.

Environmental regulations limit horse-



power but do nothing to impair your enjoyment of the body style and the relative simplicity of the engine.



These old road warriors –cared for and preserved by your neighbors in remembrance of the time when these great machines were ruling the streets– remind you every time you see one of them of the wonder of the open road. Next time you see one going by, wave at the person who keeps it running, and maybe imagine it’s 1931 or 1964 or 1929, and what the world might have been like in times gone by. ❖

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Water System Work Coming

In summer of 2014, the City of Austin will begin work on a series of water system upgrades in the southeast Allandale neighborhood generally located at 45th Street and MoPac. This work will be done in response to water line breaks that have been documented in this area. It is also a

part of the Renewing Austin Program that replaces aging infrastructure in neighborhoods throughout Austin.

The City of Austin invites citizens to come learn about the project, meet the project manager, and provide comments on the proposed construction at its upcoming public input meeting. Expect a formal invitation to come near the end of October.

Public Input Meeting

Northwest Recreation Center
2913 Northland Drive
November 4, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

*Courtney Black, courtney.black@austintexas.gov
Public Information Specialist, Senior
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Lucy's Fried Chicken Opens in Allandale: Winner Winner Chicken Dinner!

Laura Beck

Full disclosure, I was a fan of James Holmes already, having had several great meals at his first Austin restaurant, Olivia, and digging the chicken, and much more, at his other shop, the original Lucy's Fried Chicken, both in South Austin. I loved that his first restaurant was named after his daughter, and then in late 2011, after the fried chicken at Olivia's brunch was so popular, he opened Lucy's, named after his other daughter. Cool! So I was pretty excited when the Allandale rumors started flying that the old Austin Diner was going to be a north location for Lucy's Fried Chicken.

Chatting with Holmes, who made time to speak with me the week before the opening, did not disappoint. I'm an even bigger fan, in part because Holmes' is a fan of ours, too!

He said our funky, cool (his words!) neighborhood has been so welcoming before they are even open. He's loved learning the history and hearing the stories of Burnet Road, talking with longtime customers of the Austin Diner, and being right next door to icons like Ginny's Little

Longhorn. Holmes is excited about this location and the neighborhood families he hopes will be Lucy's customers.

Lucy's will fit right in with the other family friendly destinations my posse frequents often: Amy and Phil's, Pinthouse and more lately La Mancha. Holmes says the atmosphere will be very much like the south location, communal and laid back, picnic tables and juke box, grownups enjoying good food –and drink– and kids running around. A true neighborhood hang out!

Lucy's North will of course focus on a great bucket of fried chicken and will have all of the south favorites like the oysters and my favorites, the deviled eggs and Sweet Tea pie (you must try both!). But Holmes said there are some new menu items coming, especially some kid-friendly items he created just for our hood, like the Fried Chicken Spaghetti, which he said his Mom made for him growing up, a gooey, cheesy casserole with pasta and chicken. My daughters will love it!


And Holmes has added some healthier,



lighter fare choices too like the option for wood fire grilled gulf shrimp on your salad instead of fried chicken, or the Campachana, a Mexican take on shrimp cocktail.

I will stick to my favorites, and try the new Fried Chicken Nacho and homemade Moon Pies. Life is too short to eat healthy! Note: because so much on the menu is intended to be ordered and shared family style, there is no real “kids menu.”

Lucy's opened in Allandale at 5408 Burnet Road on September 12, and is open pretty much from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. each day. You can't miss it with the fun neon sign featuring a slightly changed up Lucy, a red-headed sister to the South location just for Allandale! Stop in and say “Hi” to James Holmes and his awesome colleagues and enjoy some great eating right in our ‘hood! <http://lucysfriedchicken.com/> ❖



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Allandale Celebrates National Night Out

Laura DiCarlo

On Tuesday October 1, from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m., neighborhoods throughout Austin joined with thousands of communities nationwide for the 30th Annual National Night Out (NNO). Actually, most communities did their NNO in August, but due to the heat in Austin, APD has moved ours to the first Tuesday in October every year. According to the City of Austin website, NNO is designed to

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness.
- Generate support and participation in crime efforts.
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police community relations.
- Send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

Residents in neighborhoods throughout Austin were asked to turn on their porch lights, lock their doors and spend the evening outside with their neighbors,



police officers, firefighters and EMS paramedics. Events such as cookouts and neighborhood and block parties occurred simultaneously throughout the city, giving everyone an opportunity to meet neighbors and commit to help law enforcement reduce crime

Block captains organized 21 parties in Allandale and were visited by fire fighters with their trucks, EMS, and police officers. ❖



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Cindy Freeman,
LAc MAOM





President's Letter

Continued from page 2

hope to make real progress on it in the coming months.

If you have an interest in helping out on any of these activities or have any other issues regarding the neighborhood that you would like to discuss, please drop me an email at dmintzlx@yahoo.com or call me at 626-0113.

Also, please note that as of October, our Executive Committee meetings will be held at Northwest Recreation Center on the first Wednesday of each month beginning at 7:00 p.m. We changed the meeting date so it didn't conflict with City Council meetings. ❖



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Development Trends in Allandale

Tom Linehan

In the last few years I have been noticing new homes in Allandale replacing older ones. People are buying, tearing down, and putting up a larger home on the same lot. I understand that many of the homes built in Allandale in the 1950s don't work for today's modern family, and some of the existing homes are just in too bad of shape to remodel, but with the cost of a home in our neighborhood, tearing down and building new has to be an expensive proposition.

To better understand the remodel versus rebuild decision I spoke with Norman and Ann Boyd on Woodview who are doing an extensive remodel of their house and, separately, with builder / realtor Luke Mezger, a former resident of Allandale, who has bought homes in Allandale, torn them down, and replaced them with new ones.

No surprise, but the decision on whether to remodel or rebuild comes down to economics—most of the time. The Boyds have been in their house since 2001, and with two growing boys they needed more room. For them, the choice was to either buy a bigger house elsewhere or remodel and stay. Norman said they like their block, their neighbors, the neighborhood, and the central-city loca-

tion. Moving really wasn't an option. Even though they are completely redoing one-half of house, moving and expanding the kitchen, and adding a second floor with a master bedroom and bath, they never really considered tearing down and starting from scratch. It would have been the more expensive way to go. The remodel is looking good I must say. It blends in nicely with the adjacent properties and is consistent with the style of most of the homes on the block.

Often the decision to tear down and rebuild is made because the house in place is in such poor condition that rebuilding is the only sensible way to go. In some cases, the previous home was destroyed by fire, which was the case with the house on the corner of White Rock and Shoal Creek that Luke Mezger built, and the one on the south side of Greenlawn between Shoal Creek and Burnet Road. In another instance, with a house on Bull Creek, the new owners sold and moved the old pier and beam house that was there so they could build a larger more modern home in its place.

The notion that people with deep pockets are coming in and buying up perfectly good houses, knocking them down, and replacing them with McMansion-like homes may not be entirely misplaced, but this is going on less than one might think. It is true that whatever replaces the old structure is bigger, and sometimes very different looking than what it replaced



Luke Mezger in front of a recent home he built on Cary Dr.

but the reality is a 3 bedroom, 1½ bath home with tiny closets (where did people put all of their shoes?), small bathrooms, and five-drawer kitchens just doesn't work for today's homeowner. New construction also lets owners take advantage of more modern, efficient home designs. By the way, the three homes that Luke built in Allandale, and the home he is building now on Cary, are all under 3,000 square feet: bigger than the houses they replaced but certainly not excessive. Two of the three have been spec homes where he did not have a buyer before starting construction. He says we probably won't see too many spec homes going up in Allandale these days because of the hot real estate market. People are paying market rate for homes that Luke would consider candidates for teardown, and in those situations it doesn't make economic sense for him to buy, tear down, and rebuild as a spec.

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Norman and Ann Boyd in front of their remodel under construction

What we are more likely to see these days, Luke says, is someone buying a house for teardown and hiring a contractor to build new according to the owner's design. It is hard to believe that this is a viable option given the cost and it is anyone's guess as to how much of that we can

expect to see. It reminds me of going back to my old neighborhood in Dallas where many of the homes there have been replaced with much larger ones. I certainly could not afford to live there today.

I guess the bottom line to all of this is with Allandale's desirability as a place to

live and the age of most of the homes built in the 1950s, we can expect to see more changes in the housing stock, both remodeling and rebuilding. And for those of us who have been around awhile, continue to set aside more for your property taxes. ❖

A Dog Park with Something for Everyone!

Tom Linehan

One are the days in the neighborhood when you could go to the nearby Burnet Drive-in or the Putt-Putt Golf & Games to spend your leisure hours. All that is left of the Burnet Drive-in is the sign. And there is no telling what you might find at the abandoned Putt Putt course besides a mess of overgrown brush and perhaps fresh graffiti that has been painted on top of the paint used to cover the old graffiti.

Stick around though, something better is in the works; better that is if you are a dog lover –and what person reading the Allandale Neighbor isn't? Yard Bar, a private dog park, is opening at the old Putt Putt site. Kristen Heaney, founder of Yard Bar, says "it will be a clean gated dog park where folks can hang out with their friends and their dogs and enjoy casual picnic-style food and refreshments." Where better to have Austin's first privately run dog park than in Allandale? We are a neighborhood of dog lovers! Know of any other Austin neighborhood newsletter with a dog column? Thank you Cheryl Silver.

Kristen has been working on Yard Bar for three years now. While there are similar operations in Dallas and Houston, it will be the first dog park hangout in Austin and it is generating some buzz. Yard Bar was one of 10 start-up ventures chosen for the RISE fast-pitch competition that took place here in Austin in May, a special opportunity for Yard Bar given the prevalence of tech companies selected for the competition.

If you have never walked around the old Putt Putt course, or

if it has been a while since you last did, you may be surprised. It's a big lot. According to Kristen, who fell in love with the place while doing her location search, it's over 30,000 square feet, and that doesn't include the 77-space parking lot in the back. That's a lot of run and play room for dogs. The park will have an off-leash area at the front of the lot, which will take up about two-thirds of the space, and an adjacent leash area closer to the neighborhood facing Daugherty Street. The leash area will be for dog owners who want to hang out with friends and enjoy Yard Bar refreshments (wine, craft beer, or sodas) and food from the kitchen (chicken salad, BLT, hamburgers, etc.). And of course there will be dog treats. It will be all outdoor seating with plenty of shaded areas. Some of the amenities will include dog toys, misters for the hot days, and space heaters for when it gets cold. Cost for entry will be three dollars per dog. She will also offer annual memberships for \$150 and monthly memberships for \$20 (squirrels get in free).

Kristen showed me a sketch of an early version of the plan (you can view it at yarbar.com), but says she has already changed it. She will not be adding any more buildings to the lot. The existing small three-building cluster on the site will be combined into one building and expanded slightly. It will house the kitchen, bar, and restrooms. The two large ash trees will remain. There will be no indoor seating. Food and refreshments will be ordered and picked up at the walk-up counter. Naturally, there

will be seating and picnic tables throughout with the area closest to the neighborhood fenced off for eating and socializing.

Kristen has a rescue mutt that's mostly Pointer named Venkman and I am sure he is just as eager as the rest of us for Yard Bar to open. That will be in January, which gives dogless people time to get down to the animal shelter and adopt a dog.

Yard Bar: dogs, food, drink, and play. What's not to like. It will be open weekdays from 7:00 a.m. through 10:00 p.m., and from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. on weekends. ❖

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Gullett Good News

Debbie Trominski

Gullett is a school like no other, and congratulations are in order to our kids, teachers, staff and parents. Our school's standardized test scores earned Gullett every possible performance distinction designation from the Texas Education Agency. Last year's 3rd, 4th and 5th graders buckled down and showcased their academic talent on the STAAR test to earn our school these distinctions. This is quite an accolade since Gullett is one of only seven elementary schools in Austin that was a top performer in the state

ratings. There are three areas where it is possible to earn a distinction and Gullett accomplished all three. The areas include Academic Achievement in Reading / English Language Arts, Academic Achievement in Mathematics, and Top 25 Percent Student Progress. This is a huge honor and a source of pride for all of our children and our whole neighborhood. Go Geckos!

In other exciting news, Gullett's Fall Carnival is upon us. Straight from the desk of Laura Beck, a Gullett mom, PTA member and carnival chair, is more information on what to expect from this super fun event:

The annual Gullett Fall Carnival is coming up fast and all in Allandale are invited!

Join us Saturday, October 26 from noon to 4:00 p.m. on school grounds. We will have over 15 different games and activities, including many designed just for the little kiddos in the neighborhood. Things like a petting zoo, pony rides, face painting, pumpkin toss, duck pond, and lollypop tree. We want to introduce Future Geckos to the fun of Gullett. For bigger kids, we again will have the Giant Hamster Balls and bean bag toss to earn the coveted cans of Pringles. We have great food vendors like Amy's, CraigO's, HatCreek, JimJims and Cloud9, which sells glitter cotton candy. You read that right! Glitter! New this year will be a hot dog stand manned by Gullett Dads. The Gullett Haunted House will return for its third year, scarier than ever, with several special ghoulish guests! We hope to see you Saturday, October 26! If you have any questions, contact Laura Beck, laura@stripedshirt.com or 786-1098.

As the school year has gotten underway, our Geckos have been busy after school to expand their horizons. This semester's offerings of Great Learning Opportunities reached 25 extracurricular classes. Many Geckos have been spending time after school to learn more about movie making, sports, Spanish, science, culture and art. These Geckos of ours are academically capable and well rounded!

Lots of fun is slated for November. Of note, Monday, November 11 is a student holiday and there will be no classes held that day. Leading up to Thanksgiving is the Scholastic Book Fair that will take place in the school library from the October 18 through October 21. And a cherished favorite is the annual Thanksgiving luncheon in the school cafeteria on Thursday, November 21. Parents are encouraged to join their kids for a rather tasty turkey meal and pumpkin pie. School is closed November 27-29 for Thanksgiving.

Upcoming Events

Fall Carnival – Saturday, October, 26 noon through 4:00 p.m.

Student Holiday / Parent-Teacher Conferences – Monday, November 11

Scholastic Book Fair – Monday, November 18 through Thursday, November 21

Thanksgiving Lunch – Thursday, November 21

Thanksgiving Holiday – Wednesday, November 27 through Friday, November 2 ❖



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Lamar Scottie Beat

Karen Moore

Welcome to the premier column of the Lamar Scottie Beat, an informative column about Lamar Middle School and Fine Arts Academy. It is our hope that this column gives our Allandale neighbors a little bit of inside information regarding the happenings at your neighborhood middle school.

Campus Life

Our STUDENT POPULATION is on the rise. We have just under 750 students, an increase of over 150 students from last year. While 70 percent of this year's sixth graders are from our neighborhood elementary schools of Gullett, Brentwood, and Highland Park, we have 54 elementary schools represented in our total student population.

Our STUDENT POPULATION is on the rise. We have just under 750 students, an increase of over 150 students from last year. While 70 percent of this year's sixth graders are from our neighborhood elementary schools of Gullett, Brentwood, and Highland Park, we have 54 schools represented in our total student population (45 AISD plus nine private / charter) as

some students have transferred into Lamar prior to their seventh or eight grade year.

RECESS in middle school? We've got it! With the help of our SCOTTIE DADS. The Scottie Dad program is designed to increase the adult male presence on our campus (dads, uncles, grand dads, brothers). Scottie Dads help increase student safety during our three lunch periods. Students stay in the cafeteria for the first 15 minutes of lunch, then they are able to enjoy our courtyard area, basketball courts, and track area for the remainder of lunch. Getting students out to stretch before the rest of the day: priceless.

Our SCOTTIE CLUBS are well underway. Every Friday, Lamar students meet with their Scottie Club for the last 30 minutes of the day. Students and teachers submitted ideas for clubs earlier in the year, the students then chose a club to join for the fall semester. Students will choose another club in the spring, or in many cases they will stay in their current club for the full year. Clubs range in subject matter from Anime / Manga to Film-making & Digital Storytelling to Athletics and everything in between. Something for everyone is the goal.

This year's LAMARFEST will be held Friday, November 8, from 6:00 -9:00 p.m.

This annual event is highly anticipated by the students. It is a great way for fourth and fifth graders to dip their foot into the middle school waters. It is also a great way for fourth and fifth grade parents to see what awaits them! Both wristbands and tickets will be sold for the event booths, while cash will be taken at our food court. Mark your calendar and look for information on the Lamar and Gullett weekly Yahoo groups as the date approaches. Arrive early to beat the line for the ever popular car demolition booth!

Fine Arts Introduction

We are very proud to begin our second year as AISD's Middle School Fine Arts Academy. It is a perfect fit with McCallum High School and Fine Arts Academy, our vertical team high school. Thirty-five percent of our population is in the Fine Arts Academy. We offer fine arts instruction in Band, Orchestra, Choral Music, Dance, Visual Arts, Classical Guitar, Theater Arts, and beginning with the 2014-15 school year, Digital Arts & Media. Students are able to take classes in these fine arts subjects without being in the fine arts academy, and can also take classes outside of their fine art major.

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Lamar Scottie Beat

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Academics

Lamar offers Academic and Pre-AP tracks in English Language Arts, science, and social studies. In addition to these levels, Lamar's mathematics department offers high school credit courses of Algebra I and Geometry.

Other academic high school credit courses Lamar offers to our students are health, speech, and foreign languages (LOTE). LOTE (Language Other Than English) offered at Lamar are French IA, IB, and II; Spanish IA, IB, and II; and Japanese IA and IB.

Communication

Lamar strives to provide as many communication tools to our students and parents as possible. Our teachers believe one of the best ways to ensure student success is through the use of a PLANNER. All students have been given a planner provided by our PTA. Each teacher works with their students to make sure they understand what needs to be included in their planner so they can successfully use it during their homework hours. Other ways students are keeping organized is through the use of the AISD CLOUD. The Cloud includes a link to Gradespeed, specific class / teacher information, textbooks, and more, proving to be a valuable asset to both students and parents.

The Lamar PTA puts out a weekly e-mail called the WAAG (Week-At-A-Glance), which includes information from volunteers, staff, and administration to keep parents informed on the happenings at our school. Finally, our WEBSITE holds a wealth of information and our calendar. The website is updated by a dedicated group of parent volunteers and staff. Please check us out: www.lamarmiddleschool.org.

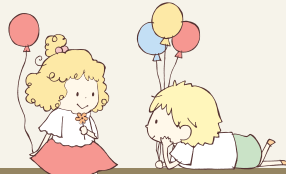
Lamar Middle School and Fine Arts Academy will host our Fall Open House in December. Parents and their fifth grade students are invited to take a tour of the campus, mingle with other parents and prospective students, and meet members of our staff and administration to learn more about Lamar Middle School. Please check our website for the date, as it will be posted shortly.

Look for the Lamar Scottie Beat in the next Allandale Neighbor to learn more about our athletics, career and technology offerings, tutoring options, outside classrooms and more. ❖

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Dog Talk: Some Safety Tips (On the Road, In the Pool)

Cheryl Silver

Airedale Terrier rescue has been part of my life for over 17 years. One component in placing a dog is making a plan to get the dog to her new family or for the new family to get the dog home safely after picking him up. Remember, the issues are getting the dog home safely, getting the dog out of the car without incident, and, finally, ensuring the dog is secure in the event of an accident.

Keep in mind that in the event of an accident, a dog could be hurled out of the car and be killed or lost. Your own dog might become fiercely protective of you if you are unconscious and responders might feel they need to shoot the dog in order to get to you—it does happen.

Transporting a dog, especially a dog who is new to you, is a very high risk venture. It is heartbreaking to realize just how many dogs are lost when they escape from the car at road stops or even right in front of the family's home. Under any circumstance this is very worrisome, but it is compounded with new dogs because they have no history or bond with you and they are in a strange place with no routine to rely on.

First, always have a tag on them with current contact information. Make sure their collar is properly fitted—it should fit snugly enough that you can slip only two fingers underneath it—otherwise it is loose enough to slip off, especially if a dog struggles out of fear.

Have the dog microchipped and have it registered.

Now, inside the car, ideally the dog will be in a crate. The plastic kind are safest, as the metal bars of the wire type crate

can stab a dog in the event of a serious crash, but a wire crate is much better than no crate. With very large dogs, using a crate is sometimes not feasible. There are other options.

Seatbelt harnesses are a great option. Most include a broad piece of cloth that spans the dog's chest so that in the event of impact, the pressure is distributed widely. Typically they require no modifications to your car: your car seatbelt slips through a loop on the harness. In order to fit your dog, you typically need the dog's weight and measurement around the chest.

If none of this is available, use a flat leash to secure the dog. By tying a bulky knot in the leash near the handle, you can then leave the knotted end of the leash outside the car when you

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Dog Talk

Continued from page 17

close the door. The knot will prevent the leash from being pulled into the car as the dog moves around and the loop of the handle will enable you to hold onto the leash securely when you open the door. Before you get out of the car, look back at the leash to make sure the dog has not chewed through it. Another option if only a leash is available is to fold your leash in half, lengthwise. Grab the leash at the folded mid-point and tie

the doubled leash in a knot, creating a loop the size of the handle of the leash. Run the car seatbelt through this loop.

If you are bringing a new dog home to your house with a pool, or if you are moving to a home with a pool, there are a few simple steps I recommend. If your pool does not have steps (rather, it only has a ladder to exit the pool), do all you can to keep your dog away from the pool unless you are there to supervise. Assuming you have stairs in the pool, clear an area near the exit point of the stairs. You will use this area to situate a very large, immovable

object that will remain there permanently. Then you get in the pool and put your chin just below the level of the water so you are looking out of the pool from the same perspective your dog will have. Look at the large object you have placed near the exit and check to see if you can see it without difficulty—this will serve as an invaluable landmark for your dog so that he or she can see where to swim to exit the pool.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions about dog-related issues. You can reach me at csilver2@austin.rr.com, or 454-7219. ❖

Safety Report

Laura DiCarlo

Since the creation of my last neighborhood watch article in mid-July, there has been a lot of activity surrounding safety issues in Allandale. I'll summarize list-serv discussions, Allandale crime stats, and end with some crime prevention tips. See elsewhere in the newsletter for a couple of photos from the eighteen October 1 National Night Out parties that were

held in Allandale. In addition, the Region 1 Central West and North Central APD Commander's Forum occurred at McCallum on the evening of October 2. Topics included organizational changes, crime statistics, and sector initiatives, as well as a question and answer session with the District Representatives and Command Staff.

In the last two and a half months,

there have been discussions on the Allandale list-serv regarding solicitation, the sound wall and graffiti, a gang related symbol left at the scene of a burglary, security systems, vigilance versus letting kids enjoy our neighborhood, a white man with a long gray beard asking kids in Crestview to get in his red truck, and a loud warrant for an arrest that was made

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just recently on Stoneway. I'll try to pinpoint the most important take aways from each of these exchanges.

Someone posed the question whether the Allandale Neighborhood Association (ANA) could legally keep solicitors away. Thanks to a block captain who is a lawyer, we found out that the Supreme Court ruled in 2002 that banning solicitation was a violation of people's First Amendment rights, and that communities therefore cannot legally ban solicitation. This is not to say you can't put a no solicitation sign on your property—it's just that the city of Austin (or Allandale) can't do so. There was talk of having ANA "no soliciting" signs made (and there was interest from dozens of people) but the decision by the ANA board was that the message from the neighborhood association should be to welcome people rather than to say who we want to stay away. That being said, there are many places to purchase no soliciting signs and they can also easily be made at home.

The discussion of the sound wall had much to do with whether people want it and whether it would truly keep the noise out. There was talk about how tall it would be, and ideas were flying about how to

beautify a wall if it gets built. Many residents are concerned that it will be a target for taggers, and I agree with this. Just recently a significant number of tags were removed from the Great Northern retention dam, and the wall will be an even easier target. There has been talk of vines and other plantings to discourage graffiti, but plants would require water and care. It remains to be seen how this will play out.

The gang discussion occurred because a home on Twin Oaks was burglarized on August 1, and the perpetrators spray painted a "58" in the garage. When asked about this, APD Detective Kevin Bartles responded that both gang members and "wannabe" gang members (teenagers who like to act like gang members) use a two-digit tag to signify their home zip code area. So they're saying they're from 78758. He also said that most real gang members in Austin don't bother with graffiti, since they're more about the business of dealing drugs. Detective Bartles guessed we have wannabes. He said that in the last six months APD uncovered a group of kids that patterned themselves after a cartel gang, using the symbols and radio call signs just like the cartel gang.

Their big thing was mostly residential burglaries, but they also did car burglaries, auto theft, and a carjacking (robbery).


The security systems discussion had to do with a block captain in the 6100 block of Shoal Creek who had a visit from an alarm sales person who made false claims, including that another security company had gone out of business when it hadn't. The block captain reported the salesman to the appropriate DPS. This has happened in the Shoalmont area as well. I would encourage anyone who receives a visit like this to call the owner of the company in question and file a complaint with the Better Business Bureau. Hopefully the use of these tactics, which I understand are widespread in the security alarm business, can be curtailed.

The discussion about vigilance versus letting kids be outside on their own in our neighborhood boils down to why neighborhood watch is so important. If we know our neighbors (adults and kids) and look out for each other, it creates a safe environment for kids to be independent.

Please pass on the information about the white male with the long gray beard

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Safety Report

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driving a red truck in Crestview who has approached children. The police are on this, but please call 911 if you see someone fitting this description.

In terms of crime stats, there have been 28 burglary of vehicles (BOVs) since the August newsletter, and eight burglary of residences (BORs). Five of the BOVs occurred at commercial properties on Burnet Road or Anderson Lane, and six occurred at Northwest Pool. The pool is a place burglars target as they can watch you go in, put your purse or wallet in the trunk, and then know you won't be back out for a while. Lock your purse or wallet in the trunk or glove compartment BEFORE you enter the pool parking lot. The BORs occurred on Twin Oaks, Janey, Shoal Creek Boulevard, Parkview, and Whiteway.

There were also a handful of thefts of bicycles, DWI arrests, family violence arrests, cases of graffiti (at the pony field, retention dam, and under the bridge near 6700 Shoal Creek Boulevard), and other issues such as possession of marijuana

and leaving the scene of an accident.

The best way you can prevent crime is to "harden the target." The following tips can help:

- Park your car in a well-lit area as close to your house as possible. A garage that locks is ideal, but not everyone has this.
- Remove all valuables from your car and never leave anything in sight that can be misconstrued as valuable.
- Reduce high bushes and other foliage around your home in which people can lurk or hide.
- Install motion lighting outside your home.
- Give the appearance of someone being home when you are not. Leave lights on a timer and a car parked in the driveway.
- Have a neighbor check on your house frequently if you are out of town and let them know how you can be reached.
- Tell neighbors when you plan to have workmen coming, so that people posing as workmen will be quickly identified as such.
- Replace your exterior doors with solid care doors that are 1 3/4 inches thick and secured with deadbolts. Replace old screws in strike plates with three-inch screws. Lock all doors and windows when you are not home.
- Secure windows with two locking devices.
- Record serial numbers of electronics and keep an inventory of all valuables including jewelry, china, electronics, etc. The inventory (pictures, written list, etc.) should be kept in a fire-safe box somewhere away from your home.
- Engrave property that doesn't have a serial number.
- Consider an alarm system or dog.
- Report all crimes to the police immediately and post details on the list-serv as well. If you are not on your neighborhood list-serv please consider joining and posting the incident (no names need be used).
- If you believe someone has broken into your house, leave immediately and call 911.

If you are not already, become a member of ANA. The more community

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Chicken Squawk Six: Choosing a Breed

Angela Caras

Probably the most fun part of planning for chickens is deciding what breed you want. Chickens come in all sorts of colors, sizes, and shapes, and there are more breeds than you can shake a, well, feather at. You can spend hours looking at chicken websites and catalogs and imagining how those happy, healthy chickens will look scratching around their coop or your backyard. To be honest, the amount of information out there can be a little overwhelming. This column will hopefully provide some guidance in your search for the perfect chickens.

In my opinion, the most important thing to think about when considering dif-

ferent breeds of chickens is which ones will do well in hot weather. Unless you are building an air-conditioned coop (in which case I'd like to talk to you about building me a coop, too), your chickens will be outside in 100+ temperatures for many days out of the year. Talking to other chicken owners, I have gotten the impression that, after from predator attacks, most chicken deaths can be tied to hot weather. So it's really important that you get chickens that will do well in the heat.


Determining which breeds of chicken will do best in the heat isn't as easy as you would think, though. It's easy enough to find lots of information about chickens that will do well in the cold (and, in fact, chickens typically do better in cold weather than hot weather), but for some reason no one seems that interested in which chickens do best in the heat. What I have learned is that in general, the smaller the chicken the better she will do in the heat. Many of the stockier or larger breeds of chicken have been bred to retain heat and do well in cold weather, and they may or may not fare well here. Also, chickens with large combs do better in the heat, since chickens diffuse heat through their combs.

So, should you rush out and get bantam (half sized) chickens? Not necessarily (although I have to say that one of the funniest chicken-related sights I have ever seen was a tiny, and I mean teeny tiny, little bantam rooster crowing his head off, thinking he was king of the coop, as hens twice his size milled around, ignoring him). Bantams can be a bit flighty (literally), and can easily clear a six-foot high privacy fence, should the mood take them. They are also easier prey, and even the neighborhood cat might have a go at them. If you plan on raising bantams, you should probably plan on keeping them in a proper enclosure at all times, meaning that they are probably not the way to go if you want truly free-range chickens.


If you don't want bantams and don't want to do all the research about which breeds do best in the heat, you can probably make a pretty reliably good decision by buying from a reputable local breeder.

Another thing to consider is how important egg production is to you. You can buy production chickens really cheaply (ours were eight dollars apiece at Callahans, and as I've mentioned before they were laying eggs the day after we brought

Continued on page 23



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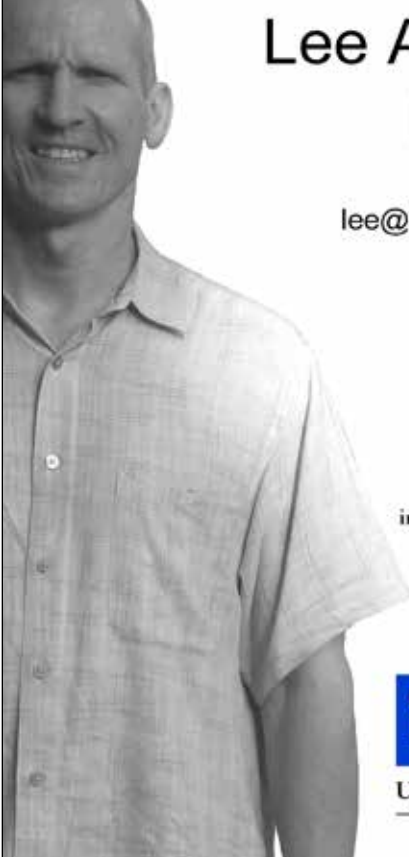
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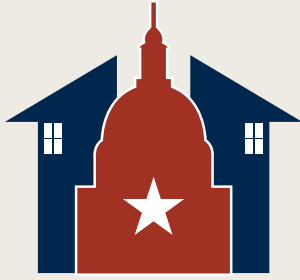
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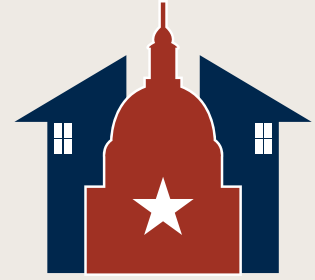


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Chicken Squawk Six: Choosing a Breed

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them home), but they're not necessarily going to be the best looking chickens out there. Also, like any other over-bred animal, production chickens can have health problems related to inbreeding.

And it's not just the amount of eggs that you might be interested in; the type of eggs you will get can also be a deciding factor. We have two "Easter Egger" chickens, and I can tell you that even after almost a year of laying, it's still amazing to go out there and get their funny colored eggs. Are those eggs any better than brown or white eggs? No, not really, but darn it, they look so cool! And it's always fun to offer some green eggs to a neighbor and have that person peer skeptically inside the egg carton and ask "Is it really OK to eat these?" Easter Eggers, Ameracaunas, and other fancy egg layers do not lay as many eggs as production hens, however, so you have to decide whether you want more eggs per chicken or cooler eggs per chicken.


One thing that I've neglected discussing so far is personality. If you look at chicken websites or catalogs, you will find that certain breeds of chicken have been characterized as "flighty," some are considered to "bear confinement well," and others are "typically shy." However, in my

experience (and based on discussions with other chicken owners), these characterizations are about as useful as any dog or cat breed characterizations, which is to say, not much. I have already discussed one of my Easter Eggers, Itty, who is very friendly and super goofy and very fun to be around. From the same hatching, I also got "Boo," who has lived up to her name by being the one chicken who will never let anyone near her.

On the other hand, I did notice, after looking through many people's comments about their own Easter Eggers, that many of these chickens do like to fly up and sit on their owners' shoulders (or heads), so Itty is apparently living up to her breed's reputation in that sense. Along that same line, when I went to Callahan's and got my production chickens, I got two red sex links. One of them was the most outgoing, friendly, laid back, and fearless chicken I have ever known (I took her to my daughter's school once and let her run around their unfenced yard while the kids tried to make her eat their lunches, and she took it all as nonchalantly as you can imagine), and the other was very standoffish for the first few months. If friendliness is an important trait to you (and it was for me) I recommend that rather than buying a certain breed because of its supposed personality traits, you go to pick out your chickens in person, and pick the ones that approach you the most readily.

Now, what about pretty chickens, or novelty chickens, or rare breeds? There is likely not a chicken owner in the world who hasn't at least looked at a breed based only on its appearance. And there are some absolutely stunningly beautiful chickens out there. There are also funny looking chickens, like Silkies. However, many of these chickens don't lay well and are quite expensive and difficult to locate (with some breeds, you may only be able to find eggs to hatch, and as I discussed last time, there are definitely drawbacks to hatching eggs). If you're OK with that, then by all means buy one; there's nothing like having a really stunning chicken wandering around your backyard. I would personally recommend limiting yourself to one such chicken, since, again, they don't lay well, and you can't predict their personalities unless you pick them out in person. On the other hand, if you're just looking for some mobile back yard art, maybe you want to get a bunch of them!

No matter what you decide, I'm sure that your new chickens will provide hours of entertainment and cartons of eggs, and possibly even a little bit of love. Next time: coops. ❖



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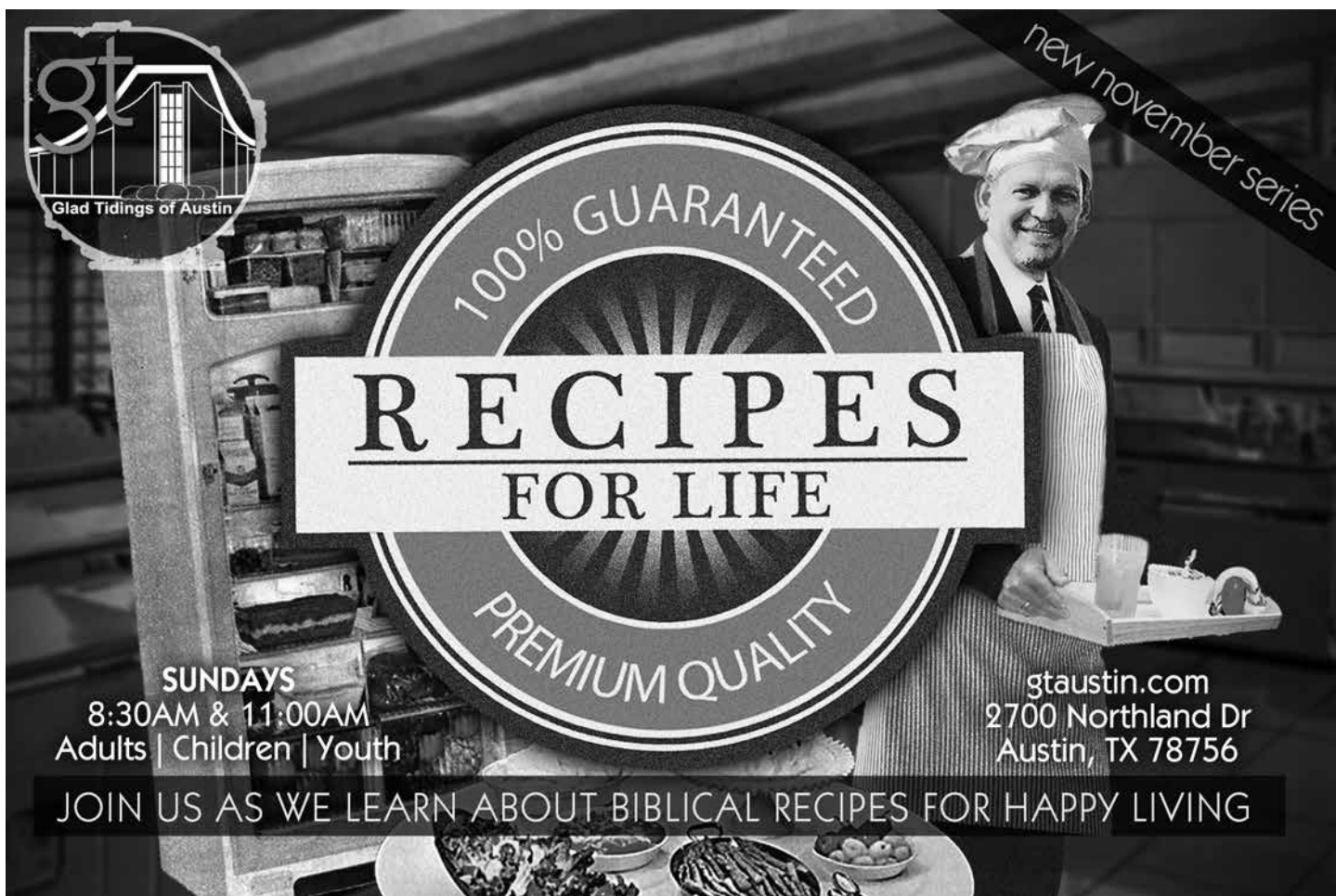


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